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AUTHOR Bohning, Gerry, Comp.
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ABSTRACT

Contributing to the study of historical aspects of the reading profession, this 33-item annotated bibliography of books and articles on William Holmes McGuffey (1800-1873) and his "McGuffey Eclectic Readers" (more than half the schoolchildren of America from 1836 to about 1920 learned to read from the "McGuffey Readers") is intended as an aid to reading educators. The selections in the bibliography date from 1900 to the present. The bibliography could be useful for: preparing lectures for a foundations of reading course; helping students prepare papers; a reading list; inservice reading or independent study or for the pleasure of personal reading. (SR)

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WILLIAM HOLMES MCGUFFEY AND THE MCGUFFEY ECLECTIC READERS; AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

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Compiled by Gerry Bohning

School of Education
Barry Universtiy
Miami, Florida 33161

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Miami: Barry University

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WILLIAM HOLMES MCGUFFEY AND THE MCGUFFEY ECLECTIC READERS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

William Holmes McGuffey (1800-1873) had a decided influence through the McGuffey Eclectic Readers in developing American values and character of the 19th century. More than half the school children of America from 1836 to about 1920 learned to read from the McGuffey Readers. McGuffey and his Readers represent a significant part of the history of reading textbooks.

The 1978 the International Reading Association passed a resolution encouraging the study of the historical aspects of the reading profession. Ten years later, 1988, reading educators have made a determined effort to follow the resolution. The following annotated bibliography of William Holmes McGuffey and his McGuffey Eclectic Readers is intended as an aid to reading educators--for preparing lectures for a foundations of reading instruction course, for distribution to help graduate and undergraduate students to prepare historical papers or make presentations, as a readings list, for inservice readings or independent study, or for the pleasure of personal reading. A set of the McGuffey Readers is available in libraries, through purchase from the Smithsonian Institute, or from Van Nostrand Reinhold Publishing.

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY

American Textbook Publishers Institute. Textbooks in Education. New York: Committee on Report to the Publish, American Textbook Publishers, 1949.

See Chapter 2 "A Short History of the Textbook in America." A good chapter to begin to get a timeline about the importance of reading textbooks in American education.

Bohning, G. "The McGuffey Eclectic Readers: 1836-1986." The Reading Teacher, vol. 40 (December, 1986), pp. 263-269.

An historical review of the Readers is given for the past one hundred and fifty years. Includes information about printing and marketing the *Readers*.

Carpenter, C. History of American Schoolbooks. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1963.

A general portrayal of American textbooks; gives an accompanying picture of pioneer school systems.

Commanger, H. S. "McGuffey and His Readers." Saturday Review, vol. 45 (June 16, 1962), pp. 50-51, 69-70.

An essay acknowledging the important role of the *Readers* in shaping the American character; the *Readers* were a chief instrument for weaving culture and morality into the fabric of American life. The essay later appeared as the Forward to the paperback reprints of the *McGuffey Readers*.

Cremin, L. A. The American Common School: An Historic Conception. New York: Bureau of Publications, Teachers College, Columbia University, 1951.

The origins of the common school are discussed along with the social and intellectual forces which stimulated its growth. The principal task of the school was viewed as the imparting of the values vital to adequate participation in the American community.

Education Section. "Back to McGuffey." Time, vol. 78 (October 27, 1961), p. 50.

A description of the Twin Lakes, Wisconsin 1961 school board adoption of the *McGuffey Readers*. The board agreed to paste brown tape over the religious passages.

Elson, R. M. Guardians of Tradition: American Schoolbooks of the Nineteenth Century. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press.

A study of American intellectual history through the concepts implied in textbooks. This is a "start here" kind of book; excellent.

Freeman, R. M. Yesterday's School Books: A Looking Glass for Teachers of Today. New York: Century House, 1960.

A presentation about the content in the *Readers*. Explains how the *Readers* firmly established the graded series concept in the elementary schools.

Friedenberg, R. V. "America's Most Widely Read Speech Teachers: The Brothers McGuffey." The Speech Teacher, vol. 21 (March, 1972), pp. 79-85.

An account of the rhetorical theory and works of William and Alexander (William's younger brother); a well written scholarly work.

Goode, J. M. "Old Guff in Virginia." Virginia Cavalcade, vol. 16 (Summer, 1966), 5-9.

A biographical sketch of McGuffey during his years at the University of Virginia where he taught from 1845 until his death in 1873.

Graff, H. F. "McGuffey's Lessons--and Non-Lessons." New York Times Magazine, Section 6 (December 3, 1961), pp. 50-51, 108-110, 112, 115.

The moral themes in the Readers are briefly reviewed.

Graney, M. "Role Models in Children's Readers." School Review, vol. 85 (February 1977), pp. 247-63.

Points out the importance of role models for children in the books which they read as lessons.

Haupt, H. L., Wroth, L. C., & Silver, R. G. The Book in America: A History of Making and Selling of Books in the United States, 2nd Edition. New York: R. R. Bowker Company, 1952.

A comprehensive account of printing, publishing, and bookselling; shows the continuous development from colonial times to the present.

Johnson, C. Old-Time Schools and School-Books. New York: The Macmillan Company, 1904.

See Chapter IX "Primary Readers," pp. 233-264; Chapter X "Advanced Readers," pp. 265-300. A description of the content of the textbooks of the times; includes reading textbooks. Focuses on the punishment of evil and the rewards of good as themes.

Livengood, W. W. Our Heritage: Being a Brief History of the American Book Company and an Account of Sundry Textbooks and Their Authors. Cincinnati: American Book Company, January 1947..

An address from the editor-in-chief of American Book; gives the chronology of the firm of Truman and Smith to American Book Company and includes a biographical sketch of William Holmes McGuffey. The summary includes the *McGuffey Readers* as part of the prized heritage.

Minnich, H. C. William Holmes McGuffey and His Readers. New York: American Book Company, 1936.

Minnich is a past curator of the McGuffey Museum at Miami University, Ohio; he gives a profile of McGuffey's life.

Mosier, R. D. Making the American Mind: Social and Moral Ideas in the McGuffey Readers. New York: King's Crown Press, Columbia University, 1947.

Traces the main currents of American thought through the *McGuffey Readers* as intellectual background for ideas and traditions which make up the American heritage.

Murphy, A. M., and Murphy, C. "Onward and Upward with McGuffey and Those Readers." Smithsonian, vol. 15 (November, 1984), pp. 182-208.

Illustrated historical review of the *Readers* from 1836 to the present.

Nietz, J. A. Old Textbooks. Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1961.

A classic. So interesting to read that it is easy to forget to take notes. Excellent study of the *Readers*. Nietz is considered an authority on textbooks. See Chapter 3 "Readers," pp. 45-105.

Parker, F. Turning Points: Ideas in Books Affecting American Education. Morgantown, WV: West Virginia University, 1980.

A focus on the moral, practical, intellectual, patriotic, and virtuous ideas in the *Readers*.

Pascel, H., and Bohning, G. "An Historical Profile of William Holmes McGuffey." Florida Reading Quarterly, vol. 23 (December, 1986), pp. 4-7.

A brief biographical review of McGuffey's life as a schoolmaster, preacher, author, college president.

Pittman, N. J. A Dialectic Analysis of the History of Beginning Reading Instruction in the United States. Unpublished doctoral dissertation, 1982, Number 82-26986. Ann Arbor: University Microfilms International.

Chapter V "McGuffey--America's Schoolmaster" is a concise review of William McGuffey, education in his day, and the publication of the *Readers*.

Reeder, R. R. The Historical Development of School Readers and of Methods in Teaching Reading. Columbia University Contributions to Philosophy, Psychology and Education, Number 8. New York: The Macmillan Company, May 1900.

Views the *Readers* as having a profound and lasting impression to establish morals and impart information throughout the American Middle West.

Robinson, R. R. Two Centuries of Change in the Content of School Readers. Contributions to Education of George Peabody College for Teachers, Number 59. Nashville: George Peabody College for Teachers, 1930.

Information is offered about the introduction of secular material along with religious material.

Ruggles, A. M. The Story of the McGuffeys. New York: American Book Company, 1950.

Alice McGuffey Ruggles was the granddaughter of Alexander McGuffey, William's younger brother. She gives an interesting account of the life and times of the McGuffey family.

Smith, N. B. American Reading Instruction. Newark, DL: International Reading Association, 1965.

A readily available introductory text; includes only a limited account of the *Readers*.

Smith, W. E. About the McGuffeys: William Holmes McGuffey and Alexander H. McGuffey Who Compiled the McGuffey Readers of Which 125,000,000 Copies Have Been Sold. Oxford, Ohio: Cullen Printing Company, 1963.

Smith is a research historian and was curator of the McGuffey Museum during 1947-59. Authentic story of the McGuffeys as he found it in old letters, documents, diaries, and newspapers.

Sullivan, M. Our Times: The United States 1900-1925, II, America Finding Herself. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1927.

Sullivan proposes that the foundation for ideas an adult holds are acquired in the American schools as they were during the generation in which he was a child and that "it was McGuffey's compilations that reached the mind of young America." This historian traces the influence of textbooks in developing the American mind. McGuffey and his Readers are discussed.

Tebbel, J. A History of Book Publishing in the United States, Volume I, The Creation of an Industry 1630-1865. New York: R. R. Bowker, 1972.

See "Textbooks," pp. 548-555. A discussion of binding, printing, advertising, distribution, print, and paper during the early years of the *McGuffey Readers*. Places the *McGuffey Readers* in the totality of the publishing business of the times.

Urell, B., and Browing, K. "Nature Study in the McGuffey Readers." Science and Children, vol. 13 (September, 1976), pp. 14-15.

Examples are provided to illustrate McGuffey's judicious selection of lessons which directly and indirectly exposed children to the content of science.

Vail, H. H. A History of the McGuffey Readers. Cleveland: The Burrows Brothers Company, 1911.

Vail was a partner in 1877 with the Van Antwerp Bragg Company, the firm that once published the *Readers*. The origins, successive changes, and subsequent events of the *Readers* are presented in detail.

Wertheim, S. H., and University, J. C. "The Common School as a Marketplace." School Review, vol. 80 (May, 1972), pp. 483-491.

The commercial strategies for selling textbooks to the common school markets are documented. Selling the *McGuffey Readers* is the focus.

Westerhoff,the III, J. H. McGuffey and His Readers: Piety, Morality, and Education in Nineteenth-Century America. Nashville: Abingdon, 1978.

Biographical information and an in-depth perspective of the moral themes in the Readers.